

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO.

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REPORT MADE AT St. Louis, Missouri	DATE WHEN MADE 12-18-51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-12-51	REPORT MADE BY SE	WOR
TITLE CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** The records of AGO, DPRB, Dept. of the Army, St. Louis, Mo., indicate CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON, ASN 3755536, in U. S. Army 8-1-18 to 7-26-19. Honorable discharged as Sergeant Major by reason of demobilization. No derogatory information. Born 7-24-93 at Bristol, Virginia.

- RUC - RT

REFERENCE: Bulet to Washington Field dated 12-5-51.  
Bureau File No. 123-12551.

DETAILS: AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

REF'D FORW.

BY

A review of the Army service record on file at the Adjutant General's Office, Demobilized Personnel Records Branch, World War I Unit, Department of the Army, for CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON, Army Serial No. 3755536, indicates that he was inducted into the U. S. Army on August 1, 1918 and entered on active duty on August 1, 1918 at Chicago, Illinois. He was honorably discharged on July 26, 1919 as a Sergeant Major from Camp Grant, Illinois, by reason of demobilization.

His military occupation was listed as Sergeant Major and civilian occupation as Accountant. He served 9 months and 13 days in foreign service in Europe and participated in the battles and campaigns of Meuse-Argonne. He was awarded the World War I Victory Medal. His character and efficiency ratings ranged from unknown to excellent. There is no record of courts-martial, AWOLs or derogatory information. The date and place of birth were shown as July 24, 1893 at Bristol, Virginia.

AGENCY REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

REQ. REC'D. 123-12551

AGENCY 1

REF'T FORW.

REQ. REC'D.

BY

REF'T FORW.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES BY <i>[Signature]</i> 123-12551-24 RECORDED - 96
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT BUREAU

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT BUREAU	DATE WHEN MADE 12-18-51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-17-51	REPORT MADE BY [redacted] :bja
TITLE CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON		CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL AGENT - CIA OR INVEST- MENT, PUBLIC LAW 402, 80th CONGRESS; VOICE OF AMERICA	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: REQ. REC'D. REP'T FORM. BY CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON's sister JULIA WATSON JOHNSON, employed as principal and teacher at Cotton Valley School by Macon County, Alabama Board of Education. Employer and associates state JOHNSON's sister has a good reputation, and there is no question as to her loyalty and associates. Criminal check negative.		AGENCY REQ. REC'D. REP'T FORM. BY	
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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>H. C. Harlan</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 123-12551-25 RECORDED INDEXED - 96	
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MO 123-379

[redacted] Macon  
County, states he has known CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON's sister JULIA MAE, for the past six years and that he considers her a sound person insofar as character, loyalty, associates and reputation are concerned.

CREDIT AND CRIMINAL

[redacted] Macon County  
Circuit and Inferior Courts: [redacted] Macon County;  
[redacted] Tuskegee, advised their files do not reflect a record of JULIA MAE JOHNSON. It is to be noted there is no credit bureau at Tuskegee, Alabama.

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-REFFERED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

12-19-51

WASHINGTON AND CHICAGO FROM WASH FIELD

19

12:15 P

R DIRECTOR AND SAC

DEFERRED

CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON, VOA. REBULET DEC FIVE, FIFTYONE. JCUA FILES REFLECT FEB TWENTYFOUR, FIFTYONE ISSUE OF CHICAGO DEFENDER CONTAINS STATEMENT BY JOHNSON DEFENDING DR. W.E.B. DU BOIS OF THE PEACE INFORMATION CENTER. REVIEW ARTICLE AND REPORT PERTINENT INFORMATION.

HOOD

CQS:PJF

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
DECEMBER 19, 1951

SAC, BALTIMORE

DEFERRED

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CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON, VOA. BUDED DEC. NINETEEN INSTANT.  
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ONI, NINTH MD, CHICAGO, CONTAINED SUMMARIES OF INTELLIGENCE  
NUMBERS ONE EIGHT SIX AND ONE FIVE THREE DURING NINETEEN  
FORTYNINE OF C DASH TWO, HEADQUARTERS SECOND ARMY, FORT  
GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND REFERRING TO JOHNSON. BALTIMORE  
CONTACT @ DASH TWO AND REPORT. JOHNSON BORN JULY TWO FOUR,  
EIGHTEEN NINE THREE, BRISTOL, VIRGINIA, AND NOW PRESIDENT,  
FISK UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TENN.

O'CONNOR

123-226

RFB:gma

cc: BUREAU (AM)

123-12551-  
NOT RECORDED  
4 DEC 20 1951

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

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FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>RICHMOND, VIRGINIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12-19-51</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12-12, 13, 18, 19-51</b>	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] :VLC
TITLE <b>CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress (VOICE OF AMERICA)</b>	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:  BVS records, Richmond, Va., reflect applicant born in August, 1893, Bristol, Va. Education verified at Virginia Union University, Richmond; received A.B. in 1916. [REDACTED] knows of no derogatory information regarding character, associations or loyalty. Knows of no association by applicant with groups or organizations cited by Attorney General as un-American or subversive. No credit record for applicant; [REDACTED] satisfactory. Criminal negative [REDACTED]			
- RUC - REQ. REC'D. 12-14-54 REP'T FORW. 12-14-54 BY [REDACTED]			
REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Washington Field dated December 5, 1951.			
DETAILS: <b>AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA</b>			
<u>BIRTH</u>  Records of State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Richmond, Virginia, were made available to Special Employee [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] receptionist. They revealed an entry made on June 8, 1894, reflecting that CHARLIE JOHNSON was born in August of 1893 at Bristol, Virginia. The parents were recorded as C. H. JOHNSON and WILLIE JOHNSON. The record was located in Volume 119, page 13-L-581.			
EDUCATION REQ. REC'D. 12-14-54 REP'T FORW. 12-14-54 BY [REDACTED]			
The following information was made available by [REDACTED] at Virginia Union University:			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>H. H. Mayes</i> <b>cc-cs:vaag</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <b>123-12551-27</b>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES RECORDED - 96 INDEXED - 96	
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The applicant was born in Bristol, Virginia, on July 24, 1893. He attended Wayland Academy, Virginia Union University, up to 1913. Received A.B. degree from Virginia Union University in 1916. Received Ph.B. from University of Chicago in 1918. Was Director of Research and Investigation for Chicago Urban League 1917 to 1919. Was Investigator of Negro Migration for Carnegie Foundation Series of Economic Studies in 1918. Was Associate Executive Secretary, Chicago Commission on Race Relations, 1919 to 1921. Was Director of Research, National Urban League, and Editor of "Opportunity", 1921 to 1928. Director of Social Science, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, 1928 to the present time.

The applicant was appointed United States representative on commission to investigate charges of forced labor in Liberia in 1930. He was the author of "The Negro In American Civilization."

The above information was taken from Virginia Union Bulletin Volume 31, January-February 1931, numbers 2 and 3, general catalog, official organ of Virginia Union.

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[redacted] Virginia Union University.  
[redacted] advised that he had known the applicant since [redacted] [redacted] that he considered the applicant an honest person of very high character. He described the applicant as having an unusually keen mind and stated that his loyalty and integrity were above question. He considers the applicant an outstanding American. He also advised that he could not believe that the applicant would ever be associated with any group or organization which was unloyal, but if he were connected in any way with such a group, it would probably be due to the applicant's training in sociology which would draw him to study such movements and to be accidentally associated with them.

CREDIT

[redacted] Retail Merchants Association, advised Special Employee [redacted] that there was no record in her files of the applicant. [redacted] the applicant, [redacted] had a satisfactory credit record as of December, 1950.

CRIMINAL

[redacted] Richmond Police Department, advised Special Employee [redacted] there was no record of the applicant or his sister in those files.

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SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT BUREAUFILE NO. *7*

REPORT MADE AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE	DATE WHEN MADE 12-19-51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-10, 11, 13-51	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted] AJ
TITLE CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON		14814	CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA

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## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Applicant has been at Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., since 1928 as Head of the Department of Sociology and President of that school since 1947. Persons acquainted with him at Fisk University and in Nashville, Tenn. advise he is a loyal citizen of excellent character and reputation. He is considered one of the leading educators in the U. S. and has served on Governmental commissions and educational boards. His associates are mostly in the field of education and are mostly outstanding men in that field. Information obtained that JOHNSON was active in the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the Southern Negro Youth Congress, which have been cited by the House Committee on unAmerican Activities and the Attorney-General, respectively, as subversive organizations. According to persons furnishing this information, applicant's membership in these organizations was not because of disloyalty, but because of his interest in social questions. Applicant in connection with other investigations, has stated that he was member of the above two organizations because of his interest in social questions. Credit slow but satisfactory. No criminal record, Nashville, Tenn.

Photo 547  
AGENCY REC'D 7-22-51  
REQ. REC'D 7-22-51  
REP'T FORM 7-22-51  
BY 10-1-51

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Bulet to Washington Field dated December 5, 1951.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>H. J. Meany</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
cc: 23-3560-674-58		123-12551-25	RECORDED - 96
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1 - Memphis (123-356)			
DEC 21 1951			
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SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DETAILS: EMPLOYMENT

[redacted] Accounting Department, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee [redacted] applicant while he [redacted] attended Fisk University as an undergraduate. He stated that the applicant is of excellent character and reputation, and that he has no doubt of his being a loyal citizen. He stated that the applicant came to Fisk University in September, 1928, as the Head of the Department of Sociology, which position he held until 1947, when he was made President of the University. During the time he has been at Fisk, he has attained the reputation of being one of the outstanding educators in the United States. He has served on many Governmental Commissions with the United Nations and on many private boards, particularly those having to do with education. [redacted] stated he could not recall from memory all of the organizations with which the applicant has been associated. He stated in connection with his official duties, JOHNSON has traveled widely throughout the United States and a large portion of the world, and that resulting from his travels he has friends and associates in the fields of education and race relations throughout the United States and other parts of the world.

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[redacted] advised that in view of JOHNSON's interest and work in the field of race relations, particularly with regard to the negro situation, he is sometimes regarded as a liberal and would probably classify himself as such. He stated, however, that any activities in which JOHNSON has participated resulted from the highest motives on his part, and that he has no subversive tendencies whatsoever.

[redacted] Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, advised that he has known Dr. JOHNSON for many years and has been associated with him at Fisk University. He stated that JOHNSON is an extremely high type of individual who bears an excellent reputation among all of those who know him and among persons in the field of education. He stated that he has a very wide acquaintanceship among educational leaders throughout the United States, and that all of his associates are above reproach. [redacted] stated that he considers Dr. JOHNSON to be extremely loyal and patriotic, and that he knows he has no subversive tendencies whatsoever. He stated in this regard that he knows because of his own dealings with JOHNSON at Fisk University, JOHNSON has attempted to be extremely careful to keep all subversive influences away from Fisk University because he considers it extremely dangerous for University students to be subjected to such influences, inasmuch as they are immature and impressionable. He said he knows that in the past when it has come to the attention of JOHNSON that any person connected with the school has exhibited any type of subversive tendencies, JOHNSON has taken immediate steps to have this person removed from the school.

123-12351-28

[redacted] Fisk University,  
advised that he has been associated with Dr. JOHNSON [redacted]. [redacted] He stated that he considers him to be a man of excellent character, one who is highly regarded by his associates in the field of education, and a man of outstanding ability. He advised that he considers JOHNSON to be a loyal and patriotic citizen and a person who has no subversive tendencies whatsoever. [redacted] stated he does not know all of the organizations with which Dr. JOHNSON has been associated, but that he does know that because of his interest in the field of social science, he has been connected with many organizations in his lifetime. He stated he does not know that any of the organizations with which Dr. JOHNSON has been associated are in any way subversive, but stated if it happened that they were, it is his opinion JOHNSON's motives for being connected with the organizations were entirely innocent of any subversive tendency.

[redacted] Fisk University,  
Nashville, Tennessee, advised that she has known Dr. JOHNSON for many years, and stated she regards him as a very high type of individual. She advised that he is outstanding in the field of education and is highly regarded by his associates. She stated he is of excellent personal character and that his associates are above reproach. [redacted] stated that because of Dr. JOHNSON's interest and research in the field of social science, in particular in the field of race relations, he is regarded as a liberal. She stated that by this she meant that some of his ideas differed from what is the general practice in the South. She advised, however, that there is no question as to Dr. JOHNSON's being a loyal citizen of the United States, and that she believes him to be opposed to any type of subversive activity, stating he would probably be the first to fight against such subversive activity.

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[redacted] Fisk University,  
Nashville, Tennessee, formerly Assistant to the President, upon being interviewed, furnished the following written statement:

"Nashville, Tenn.  
December 11, 1951

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I have known Dr. Charles S. Johnson since the summer of 1938 when I first became associated with him as a research fellow in the Department of Social Sciences at Fisk University. In this capacity I worked on the research that was current in the department at that time, three of which appeared later as publications.

ME #123-356

"My knowledge of Dr. JOHNSON as a person would lead me to believe that he is a person of excellent character, sound judgement and a person intensely interested in working for social development within our present democratic framework. He enjoys the highest reputation of people, not only within his field of competence, but a larger public as well.

"I have observed nothing which would lead me to believe that Dr. JOHNSON is not a loyal citizen.

"Because of his interest in interpreting and understanding problems, Dr. JOHNSON has participated in numerous organizations, two of which later have been termed subversive. I know that he participated in the activities of the Southern Conference of Human Welfare and the Southern Negro Youth Congress, and here as in other organizations, he brought to bear the scientific knowledge and human understanding which characterizes his approach to problems. Even within these organizations Dr. JOHNSON approached them with a type of realism which is consistent with our whole democratic philosophy as is opposed to any subversive approach.

"I have read the above statement and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

"/s/

Dec. 11, 1951

Sp. Agt., FBI, Memphis, Tenn., 12/11/51"

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It will be noted that the Southern Conference for Human Welfare has been cited by the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities as a Communist organization, and the Southern Negro Youth Congress has been cited by the Attorney-General as a Communist organization coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

In October of 1944, [redacted] of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, advised in connection with another investigation that he had known Dr. JOHNSON [redacted]. He stated it was at his suggestion that JOHNSON was brought to Fisk University and was made head of the Social Science Department, which position he held at the time of that interview. He stated JOHNSON's reliability, honesty, patriotism, and loyalty to the United States were unquestioned. He stated, however, that both he and JOHNSON were "a little to the left." He explained that Dr. JOHNSON was not a Communist, but was "a little to the left of the middle of the road trend." He advised that JOHNSON's activities in research as a student of social science carried him into many organizations, some of which probably had Communistic tendencies. [redacted] stated that JOHNSON was perhaps the best informed person in the South on the true negro situation.

ME #123-356

Dr. JOHNSON was interviewed in connection with another matter in October, 1944, at which time he advised that he had served on the Advisory Committees of both the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the Southern Negro Youth Congress.

On December 7, 1951, Dr. JOHNSON was interviewed by the reporting agent in connection with another matter, at which time the Southern Negro Youth Congress and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare came into the conversation. He stated that he had been active in both organizations and had been on the Advisory Committees for both organizations. Dr. JOHNSON stated that his interest in the organizations had been because of the fact that they purportedly were interested in formulating some plans for the improvement of social conditions in the South, particularly with relation to the negroes, and that they purported to make a study of such social conditions from an intellectual standpoint. He stated that because of his interest in race relations and in the field of social science, he became connected with the organizations. He stated he subsequently left the Southern Negro Youth Congress because of some of the trends of activities with which he did not agree and which he suspected were motivated by subversive interests with which he wanted no part. He stated that possibly there were members of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare who had subversive tendencies; however, he noted no degree of control over the organization as a whole by these people. He stated that in the event he had noticed such control by subversive individuals, he would have opposed them within the organization.

[redacted] Commerce Union Bank, Nashville, Tennessee, [redacted] for Fisk University, advised that he was acquainted with Dr. JOHNSON while a member of the board of Fisk University. He stated he considers JOHNSON to be of good reputation and character, a man of good associates, and one who is loyal to the United States. He stated he knows of no subversive tendencies on the part of JOHNSON and knows of no membership on the part of JOHNSON in any type of subversive organization. In this regard, [redacted] stated that he had heard that JOHNSON had been associated with the Southern Conference for Human Welfare when that organization had its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee. He stated in his own personal opinion, this organization was subversive. He said, however, that he had no actual information about the organization; nor did he know enough concerning JOHNSON's relationships with the organization to furnish any statement concerning it. [redacted] stated he would be willing to testify before any hearing board concerning JOHNSON.

MISCELLANEOUS

[redacted] Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee, advised that he has known Dr. JOHNSON as a fellow educator for many years, stating he is a man of highest integrity and one who has an excellent reputation among his associates in the field of education. He stated he considers JOHNSON to be a loyal and patriotic citizen and a man whose associates are above reproach.

ME #123-356

In October, 1944, [redacted] Tennessee A & I College, which is now Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee, advised that he had known Dr. JOHNSON for a period of 10 or 15 years at that time. He stated Dr. JOHNSON was neither a Communist nor a radical, but as a student of social science he would join organizations that appeared to have Communist tendencies. He stated this was because of JOHNSON's interest in social science, and that he would join organizations which purported to study and improve social conditions. He characterized JOHNSON as being quite loyal and patriotic, stating he was one of the best informed persons in the South on the true negro situation as a result of his research into negro problems and conditions. He stated that he considered JOHNSON to be one of the outstanding men in the United States, and advised that he was perfectly reliable and trustworthy.

[redacted] was interviewed concerning Dr. JOHNSON on December 13, 1951, at which time he stated his opinion of Dr. JOHNSON had not changed. He advised that he knew of no organizations of which JOHNSON had been a member which had any subversive tendencies. He stated it was possible JOHNSON was associated with both the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the Southern Negro Youth Congress, and he felt this was probably correct. He stated, however, he had no first hand knowledge of his association with these organizations. He said that he felt if JOHNSON were associated with the organizations mentioned, he would have been motivated by highest principles and would not have agreed to any subversive activities on the part of the organizations. [redacted] advised that inasmuch as he did not have any specific information concerning JOHNSON's membership in these organizations, he did not desire to furnish a statement.

At the time of the interview [redacted] made available a brochure on Dr. JOHNSON, which was prepared by the Office of the President of Fisk University in July of 1951. This brochure is as follows:

CHARLES S. JOHNSON was born in Bristol, Va. on July 24, 1893, the son of a Baptist minister. His education was received at Wayland Academy, Virginia Union University, and the University of Chicago where he pursued graduate study in the field of Sociology.

While at the University of Chicago he assumed the responsibility of director of Research and Investigation for the Chicago Urban League and in 1919 was appointed Associate Executive Secretary of Chicago's Commission as Race Relations created by the Governor of Illinois following the race riots in that city. The volume, The Negro in Chicago, 672 pages, published by the University of Chicago Press in 1922 resulted from this work.

CHARLES SPURGEON COOPER, EMPLOYED BY COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, "Opportunity" A JOURNAL OF PIONEER LIFE, AND AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES UNION, LOCAL 1000, CARD CARRIER

ME #123-350

He served in World War I as regimental sergeant-major in the 803rd Pioneer Infantry, taking part in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

In 1921 he became director of research for the National Urban League with headquarters in New York and in 1923 founded the League's periodical, "Opportunity, a Journal of Negro Life," which he edited until 1929. In 1928 he became head of the Department of Social Sciences at Fisk University and remained in this post until his election to the presidency of this institution in 1946.

His alma mater, Virginia Union University, awarded him the honorary degree, Doctor of Letters, in 1928; Howard University awarded the degree Doctor of Humane Letters in 1941; Columbia University awarded the degree Doctor of Letters in 1947; and Harvard University awarded the degree Doctor of Laws in 1948. In 1930 he served as American member of an International Commission appointed by the League of Nations to investigate slavery and enforced labor in Liberia and was awarded, in that same year, the William E. Harmon gold medal for distinguished achievement among negroes in the field of science.

Among the major responsibilities might be included the secretaryship of the Commission on Negro Housing for President Hoover's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership; authorship of a volume on Negro Housing; Organizer of the Institute of Race Relations at Swarthmore College in 1933; Membership on the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy under President Roosevelt; member of the White House Conference on children in a Democracy and consultant on minority problems for the Children's Bureau; Member of the White House Conference on Children in Tennessee; Member of the Wage and Hours Committee of the Railroad Carrier Industry, and the Cigarette and Tobacco Industry; Member of the American Commission of 20 educators sent to Japan in 1946 at the request of General MacArthur, to advise on the reorganization of the educational system of that country; appointed by President Truman in 1946 as one of the 10 U. S. delegates to the first session of the U. N. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris and in 1947 to the second session in Mexico City; member of the Executive Committee of the U. S. National Committee for UNESCO; appointed in 1948 as a member of the President's Board of Foreign Scholarships under the Fulbright Act; delegate to the Assembly of World Council of Churches in Amsterdam, Holland in 1948; delegate to the Conference on Indian-American Relations in New Delhi, India in 1949.

He was director of the Race Relations Division of the AMA from 1944 to 1948 and co-director of the Race Relations Program of the Julius Rosenwald Fund from 1943 to 1948, as well as a member of the Board of the Julius Rosenwald Fund until its liquidation in 1948. He is past president (1945) of the Southern Sociological Society; Chairman of the Executive

Committee of the Southern Regional Council; Vice-President of the American Hygiene Association; John Hay Whitney Foundation, Member of the Board of Trustees and Fellowships Awards Committee, 1950 to present; AMA Race Relations Department, Chairman of the Advisory Board; National Manpower Council (Ford Foundation and Columbia University), Member 1951; UNESCO "Project for Scientific and Cultural History of Mankind," Corresponding Member, 1951; National Planning Association, Member; National Urban League Board of Trustees, Member 1951; American Council on Education, Committee on Relationships of Higher Education to the Federal Government; Encyclopedia of the Negro, Member of Board of Trustees; Southern Policy Committee, Member of Executive Committee; World Social and Economic Planning, Member of Consultive Group; National Education Committee to Cooperate with the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools; Committee on Religious Leadership, Ministerial Training and Local Parish; Problems under the National Education Association (Division of Cooperation in Education and Race Relations), member, Group Five - Problems of Negro Education in Rural Areas, Department of Superintendance, National Education Association, Member; National Youth Administration of the State of Tennessee, Member of Advisory Board, 1933; Standing Committee on Instruction and Research in Housing of National Association of Housing Officials, Member; U. S. Department of Labor—Children's Bureau, Consultant; Institute of Race Relations, Co-Director, New York University; Southern Rural Division, Negro Youth Study for the American Youth Commission, Director; Bethune-Cookman College, Member of Board of Trustees; National Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Member of Executive Committee; Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, Member of Executive Committee; Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society, Member; Countee Cullen Memorial Scholarship Committee—Honorary Chairman; International Mark Twain Society—Honorary Member; National Committee "The People Speak," Ford Foundation.

He published the following books:

- The Negro in Chicago, 1922
- Ebony and Topaz, 1927
- Race Relations, 1931
- The Collapse of Cotton Tenancy, 1934
- The Negro in American Civilization, 1930
- Report of the International Commission on Slavery and Forced Labor in Liberia, 1931
- The Economic Status of Negroes, 1933
- Shadow of the Plantation, 1934
- Negro Housing (Vol. VI for the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership), 1932
- A Preface to Racial Understanding, 1938
- The Negro College Graduate, 1931
- Growing Up in the Black Belt, 1931
- Statistical Atlas of Southern Counties, 1941

ME #123-356

✓ Patterns of Negro Segregation, 1943  
✓ To Stem This Tide, 1943  
Culture and the Educational Process, 1943  
Into the Main Stream, 1947  
One of the editors of Race and Culture, 1950  
Education and the Cultural Crisis, 1951

NEIGHBORHOOD

Inasmuch as all of the places of residence on the part of the applicant in Nashville, Tennessee, are located on the campus of Fisk University, no neighborhood investigation was conducted as various members of the faculty were interviewed.

CREDIT

[redacted] Credit Bureau of Nashville, Nashville, Tenn., advised that the records of her office on the applicant go back for 20 years. She stated they indicate he has been President of Fisk University since July 1, 1947. She stated his credit record indicates he has been slow but satisfactory in paying his debts. She advised that her records contain nothing as to the applicant's character, habits, or loyalty.

CRIMINAL

[redacted] Identification Officer, Nashville Police Department, Nashville, Tennessee, advised that he has no record for the applicant.

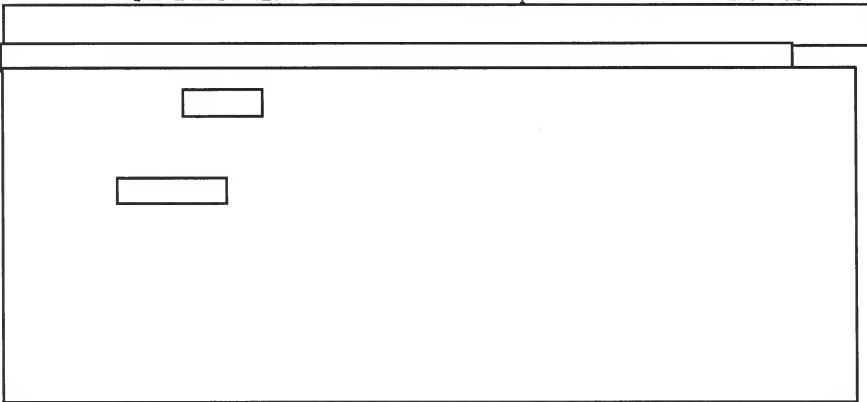
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ADMINISTRATIVE

The information set forth in this report which was obtained in



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FBI, ATLANTA

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SAC, LOUISVILLE

URGENT

R CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON, VOA, BIDED DECEMBER NINETEEN, INSTANT.

REBUIFILE ONE TWO THREE DASH ONE TWO FIVE FIVE ONE, AND WASHINGTON FIELD TEL TO ATLANTA INSTANT DATE. JOHNSON, PRESIDENT FISKE UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TENN., ACTIVE VARIOUS GROUPS INCLUDING AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTION FOREIGN BORN, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, SCW, AND SNYC. INVESTIGATION REFLECTS ONE CHARLES S. JOHNSON WAS LISTED AS SPONSOR OF MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF EDITORS AND WRITERS OF SOUTH, ATLANTA, GA., DECEMBER NINETEEN FORTYFOUR. [REDACTED]

LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL WAS CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN THIS MEETING. BUREAU INSTRUCTS ALL OFFICES ENDEAVOR/DEVEL P APPLICANT-S DEGREE OF ASSOCIATION VARIOUS GROUPS MENTIONED ABOVE. LOUISVILLE WILL DOCUMENT COMMITTEE OF EDITORS AND WRITERS OF THE SOUTH.

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CASPER

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cc: BUREAU (AMSD)

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FBI, LOUISVILLE

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SAC ATLANTA

URGENT

CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON, VOA, BUDED DECEMBER NINETEEN, INSTANT. REURTEL  
DATED DECEMBER NINETEENTH, FIFTY ONE. THIS OFFICE HAS NO RECORD OF  
COMMITTEE OF EDITORS AND WRITERS OF THE SOUTH NOR ARE WE ORIGIN IN CASES  
ON OTHER GROUPS MENTIONED.

MALONE

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cc: BUREAU

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SAC, Louisville

December 20, 1951

SAC, Atlanta (123-581)

CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON  
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC LAW 402; 80th CONGRESS  
(VOICE OF AMERICA)  
Buded December 19, 1951

R

Remytel December 19, 1951 and your tel December 20, 1951.

The Atlanta Office has no record of the Committee of Editors and Writers of the South; however, [redacted] Associated Press, and [redacted] Atlanta Journal, both suggested that background information concerning this organization could in their opinion be obtained from [redacted] Louisville Courier Journal.

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New York, New York  
December 20, 1951

CHICAGO DEFERRED

CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON, VOA. REFERFILE ONE TWO THREE DASH ONE TWO FIVE FIVE  
ONE AND URFILE THIS CASE. AFTER LEAVING EMPLOYMENT WITH NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE,  
NYC, IN NINETEEN TWENTY-EIGHT, JOHNSON BECAME A DIRECTOR OF RACE RELATIONS FOR  
THE JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND, FOUR NINE ZERO ONE ELVIS AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

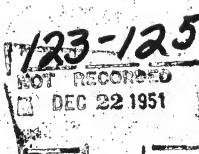
ONE [REDACTED] WAS ALSO A [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS [REDACTED] FUND. HANDLE.

CC: BUREAU

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JFO:S:W (#11)

123-3501

SAC, Boston

December 21, 1951

AIBD

AC, New York (123-3501)

CHARLES SWEDISH JOHNSON  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATE DEPARTMENT  
Public Law 402, 80th Congress  
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R

The records of the Carnegie Corporation, 522 5th Avenue, NYC, reflect that JOHNSON was employed during 1939 to prepare a manuscript on Discrimination and Segregation for one UNEVIAL YRDAL, who was in charge of a great overall study of the Negro in America, conducted by the Carnegie Corporation. YRDAL returned to Sweden at the outbreak of the war and was replaced temporarily

[redacted] Boston interview.

For the information of the Philadelphia Office, JOHNSON was employed by the National Urban League in NYC from 1941 to 1943 and was the editor of "Opportunity" Magazine, the official organ of the National Urban League. One IRA P.M. was formerly a research director with the National Urban League, and is acquainted with JOHNSON. He is presently Professor of Sociology at Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia interview.

For the assistance of both the Boston and Philadelphia Offices, there is enclosed a photostatic copy of JOHNSON's personal history, furnished in connection with his application with the VA, as well as the Bureau's instructions concerning this investigation.

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cc-Philadelphia (AIBD) Encs. (1)  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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MEADE, MD., REFLECT APPLI HAS NEVER BEEN SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION  
BY G DASH TWO IN SECOND ARMY AREA. HOWEVER, FILES CONTAIN NUMEROUS  
REFERENCES TO SUBJECT IN FORM OF BU REPORTS, HCUA REPORTS, INTELLIGENCE  
SUMMARIES ISSUED BY OTHER ARMY G TWO SECTIONS, NEWSPAPER ITEMS, ETC.  
APPLI HAS BEEN CONSIDERED COMMUNIST SUSPECT BY SECOND ARMY G TWO  
PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF HIS LISTINGS IN HCUA REPORTS, AND IT IS  
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QUOTE COMMUNIST SPONSORED UNQUOTE WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE IN NYC  
AND HAS BEEN AFFILIATED WITH QUOTE OTHER COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES.  
UNQUOTE. THIRD ARMY SUMMARY NO. NINE EIGHT FOR FEB. TWENTYFIVE,  
TO MARCH FOUR, FORTYNINE, DESCRIBED APPLI AS SPONSOR OF A NUMBER  
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PAGE TWO

FORTYTWO, LISTED ONE CHARLES S. JOHNSON AS RECENTLY CONVICTED OF PERJURY IN LANCASTER, PA., IN CONNECTION WITH COMMUNIST ELECTION NOMINATIONS. PHILA. WILL ASCERTAIN WHETHER THIS JOHNSON IS IDENTICAL WITH APPLI WHO WAS BORN JULY TWENTYFOUR, EIGHTEEN NINETYTHREE, BRISTOL, VA., AND IS NOW PRESIDENT, FISK UNIVERSITY NASHVILLE, TENN. ATLANTA WILL CHECK THIRD ARMY INTELLIGENCE FILES. RUC.

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WILLIS TURNER, MEMPHIS, TENN., DATED FEBRUARY SIXTEEN, FORTY-SIX,  
ENTITLED SCHW, INTERNAL SECURITY DASH C. ATLANTA REPORT CARRIES

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] CONFIDENTIAL  
INFORMANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] CONTACT  
REINTERVIEW INFORMANTS.

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CC: BUREAU

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CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON, VOA. RE BALTIMORE TEL DEC TWENTYONE LAST.

BUFILE ONE TWO THREE DASH ONE TWO FIVE FIVE ONE. PHILA INDICES NEGATIVE RE CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON. REPORT OF PENNA MOTOR POLICE SEP.

SIXTEEN FORTY REFLECTS THAT [REDACTED] DESCRIBED AS AMERICAN NEGRO, BORN MARCH THIRTY EIGHTEEN, LANCASTER, PA. WAS ARRESTED AUGUST TWENTYONE FORTY ON A WARRANT CHARGING PERJURY AND CONSPIRACY IN CONNECTION WITH CP NOMINATING PETITIONS OF FORTY. CRIMINAL RECORD, FBI NUMBER THREE ONE THREE FIVE SEVEN SEVEN THREE REFLECTS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LANCASTER PA. PD, ARRESTED AUGUST TWENTYONE FORTY, CONSPIRACY AND PERJURY. FOUND GUILTY DEC. ELEVEN FORTYONE AND SENTENCED TO FINE OF TEN DOLLARS AND COSTS. RUC.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
INDIANAPOLIS	12/24/51	12/19/51	mgh
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON		SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT Public Law 402, 80th Congress (VOICE OF AMERICA)	
AGENCY <i>Prvite-CSC</i> REQ. REC'D <i>7-27-55</i> REP'T FORW. <i>7-28-55</i> BY <i>JRS-RVH-dab</i>			
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:			
<p><i>RE: JRS-RVH-dab</i></p> <p>is a loyal and patriotic American and is opposed to Communism. [ ] recommends applicant highly and states applicant's membership in organizations cited by HCUA and AG was prior to Communist infiltration. He stated applicant's career has been devoted to teaching democracy and improving race relations.</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p>AGENCY <i>Prvite FSA</i> REQ. REC'D <i>7-27-55</i> REP'T FORW. <i>7-22-55</i></p>			
REFERENCE: Memphis teletype dated December 17, 1951.			
DETAILS: AT RICHMOND, INDIANA			
<p><i>RE: JRS-RVH-dab</i></p> <p>advised that he was well-acquainted with applicant and had been instrumental in bringing him to Fisk University as Head of the Institute of Race Relations at that school. He described applicant as being one of the most genuine, capable and devoted Americans he knows. [ ] stated that he has never questioned or doubted applicant's loyalty to this country and would recommend him unreservedly for a position of trust. He further stated that he knows applicant to be opposed to Communism and would "trust him inside Russia as he would reform the Communists themselves."</p>			
<p><i>RE: JRS-RVH-dab</i></p> <p>advised that applicant was connected with both the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Reverey &amp; Foster</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: <i>DEB</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
CC-CSC & AG		123-12551-31	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT:		1	RECORDED - 95
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Indianapolis  
123-713

Southern Negro Youth Congress while at Fisk University but resigned from these organizations when he learned that they were being infiltrated by Communists. [redacted] stated that for some time after their formation these organizations were subject to no Communist influence and it was during this period that applicant was active in them. When he learned that Communists were infiltrating these organizations, applicant severed his connection with them, according to [redacted]. He further stated that he knew of no other questionable organizations to which applicant belonged at this time, and it was his opinion that applicant would not knowingly belong to any organization which was influenced by Communism.

[redacted] stated that applicant's entire career has been devoted to the improvement of race relations. He stated that applicant had been active in "Opportunity", a Negro magazine for the National Urban League in New York, and as an adviser to the Haitian Government on mass education, the purpose of which was to educate Haitians to democracy. He also advised that applicant had been a member of the MacArthur Commission in Japan where he helped reorganize the Japanese schools to teach democracy. [redacted]

[redacted] cited these examples as proof of his contention that applicant has attempted to teach democracy and also stated that applicant is the author of many books on race relations which are used as textbooks by universities.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress was cited as a Communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in their report dated January 3, 1940 and was listed by the Attorney General of the United States as a Communist organization within the purview of Executive Order 9835 on November 21, 1947. The Southern Conference for Human Welfare was cited as a Communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in their report dated March 29, 1944.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT BUREAUAGENCY/CC: *pls. 130*  
FILE NO. REC'D 7-27-55  
REQ. REC'D 7-26-55

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 12/26/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/19, 20/51	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted]
TITLE CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON	CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT; PUBLIC LAW 402; 80th CONGRESS (VOICE OF AMERICA)		
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> Applicant's name appeared in December 19, 1944 Atlanta Journal as one of sponsors for the Committee of Editors and Writers of the South which held conference in Atlanta December 21, 1944. [Redacted] advised that on May 9, 1946, applicant was contacted by [Redacted] whom [Redacted] advised was [Redacted] in August of 1945.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- R U C -</p>			

**REFERENCE:** Washington Field teletype to Atlanta dated December 19, 1951 and Atlanta teletype to Louisville dated December 19, 1951.

**DETAILS**  
**AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

The Atlanta Journal on the date of December 19, 1944 reflects an Associated Press article entitled "Editors to Discuss South's Vote Laws, Editors and Writers from Thirteen Southern States Will Meet Here Thursday to Discuss Voting Restrictions in the South." "The meeting is sponsored by the Committee of Editors and Writers of the South, an informal and unaffiliated group, and will be of an exploratory and informal nature. Brief factual summaries of present voting laws in southern states will be presented by the speakers." The applicant's name was listed as being among the sponsors of the Committee, who were from cities all over the South.

The Atlanta Journal on the date December 22, 1944 carried an article [Redacted] entitled "Editors Parley May Aid Fight to Aid Vote Clause." "A group of forty southern editors

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. J. Casper</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE cc: cso. 126-126-521-1	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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123-12551-32 DEC 28 1951 RECORDED 96 INDEXED EX-28			

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and writers were enroute home from Atlanta Friday convinced that their anti-poll tax conference would have far-reaching results toward removal of franchise restrictions that bar southern Negroes from voting. The editors met Thursday at the Biltmore Hotel where [redacted] Louisville Courier Journal, they heard speakers from most of the eight southern states where poll tax laws are enforced. [redacted] who served as conference chairman, stated information on the meeting would be disseminated throughout the South in advance of 1945 Legislative Sessions of the several states."

[redacted] Atlanta Journal, advised he did not know the origin or the officers of the Committee of Editors and Writers of the South. He related that he covered the meeting of this group in Atlanta in December 1944 and it was an un-segregated group and there were various speakers who seem to be advocates of social equality and no segregation of the races.

[redacted] Associated Press, advised that he wrote an advance article on the proposed meeting of Editors and Writers of the South at the Biltmore Hotel in December 1944. He advised that he did not know the origin of this group or who its officers were, but that [redacted] Louisville Courier Journal, [redacted] at this meeting. Both [redacted] and [redacted] stated that there had never been an organization in Atlanta to their knowledge known as the Committee of Editors and Writers of the South.

[redacted] of known reliability, advised on May 9, 1946 that [redacted] was in contact with Dr. CHARLES S. JOHNSON, who was at that time at Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia.

[redacted] of known reliability, advised that [redacted] of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare as of August 27, 1945. The Southern Conference for Human Welfare has been cited by the Congressional Committee of Un-American Activities as a Communist front organization, which seeks to attract southern liberals on the basis of its seeming interest in problems of the South, although its professed interest in southern welfare is simply an expedient for larger aims for serving the Soviet Union and its subservient Communist Party in the United States.

[redacted] Atlanta University, advised that he could not recall the purpose of the applicant's presence at Atlanta University in May of 1946, but in the past ten years, the applicant has been at the Atlanta University, possibly fifty times, for University conferences, attending special lectures, or lecturing himself. [redacted] advised that he considered the applicant to

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~~Information contained herein is confidential~~  
be an outstanding person of excellent character, reputation and associates.  
He stated he would recommend him for any position trust as there could be  
no question as to his loyalty as an American citizen.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

INFORMANTS PAGE

Memphis

Memphis

[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO. *J*

REPORT MADE AT LITTLE ROCK	DATE WHEN MADE 12-28-51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-21-51	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted] LC
TITLE CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON		CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT, Public Law 102, 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Commonwealth College, Mena, Ark., convicted in January, 1941, in Polk County Circuit Court, Mena, Ark., of the charges of displaying an illegal emblem, the hammer and sickle, failure to display the American flag, and of teaching anarchy. The operation of the College was actually ceased on August 30, 1940, and it has been inactive since that date. On April 21, 1949, the Attorney General designated Commonwealth College as a Communist organization within the purview of Executive Order 9835. One CHARLES JOHNSON, who is not otherwise identified, was listed as a member of the National Advisory Committee of Commonwealth College in the report of the Director of Commonwealth College, February 25, 1939. No records presently available to the Little Rock Division by which the identity of the above named CHARLES JOHNSON can be established.

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REFERENCE: Teletype from Washington Field dated 12/19/51.

AGENCY REC'D - F.S.I. - P.H.C.  
REQ. REC'D 2-3-53  
REP'T FORW. 2-22-53  
BY *W.A.P.* REC'D 5-3-53  
(long)

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>M.W.M. - F.B.I.</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>cc-cscv 9-6-1951</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <i>123-12551-33</i>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ③ - Bureau (123-12551) (AMSD) 1 - Little Rock (123-246)		RECORDED - 98 DEC 29 1951 INDEXED - 98 EX-28

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DETAILS: [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] advised that the principal textbooks used at the school were EARL BROWDER'S writings. One lecture prepared at the college for delivery and distribution advocated open revolution by the negroes in the South and advised them to seize the "black-belt" territory and establish their own independent government.

In 1940, at the time Commonwealth College was closed, [redacted] assisted in examining the library of that school. He examined approximately 5,500 to 6,000 volumes and found all but about 1,500 books were made up of Communist propaganda. Pamphlets entitled "Arkansas Greetings to the Chicago Peace Mobilization" and "The Arkansas Road to Security and Peace", which was the 1940 Arkansas Communist Party Election platform had been printed in the college print shop and were found stacked in that shop.

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[redacted] has observed the students and faculty members of Commonwealth College selling "The Daily Worker" on the streets of Mena on numerous occasions.

He advised that [redacted] who was associated with Commonwealth College for many years as a maintenance worker and teacher, was a candidate for Governor of Arkansas on the Communist Party ticket in 1940.

Prominent Communists often appeared at Commonwealth College as lecturers or visitors. Foremost among these was ELLA REEVE BLOOR (Mother Bloor), a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party.

The September 15, 1935 issue of the Fortnightly, bi-monthly publication of Commonwealth College, reported that

Mother Bloor gave a series of 16 talks over a two weeks period at Commonwealth College.

The August 1, 1936 issue of the Fortnightly reported that Mother Bloor would be on the Commonwealth College campus for two weeks for a series of lectures.

The August 15, 1936 issue of the Fortnightly reflects that Mother Bloor gave a talk on July 24, 1936 at a public gathering in Mena, Arkansas during her two weeks stay at Commonwealth. [redacted] advised that this talk was

[redacted] also a member of the Commonwealth College Staff.

The pamphlet entitled "Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities in the United States", published May 29, 1946, by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives, reflects that Commonwealth College received extensive donations from the Communist-supporting Garland Fund (Massachusetts House Committee on Un-American Activities, Report 1938, p. 320). This pamphlet also reflects that the Garland Fund is "properly known as the American Fund for Public Service, and has contributed more than \$1,500,000 all to the furtherance and support of left-wing and Marxist projects" (Massachusetts House Committee Report on Un-American Activities, 1938, p. 204). This fund "had as its trustees the leaders of the Communist Party in America" (Massachusetts House Committee Report on Un-American Activities, 1938, p. 113).

On April 21, 1949 the Attorney General designated Commonwealth College as a Communist organization within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

On or about July 11, 1941, SA [redacted] in connection with another investigation, involving examination of the records of Commonwealth College, noted the following: "The report of [redacted]

College Association February 25, 1939, reflects that at this time in addition to [redacted] held the position [redacted] A non resident

[Redacted]

No further identifying information concerning JOHNSON was reflected.

The records of the House Committee on Un-American Activities reflect one CHARLES JOHNSON, not otherwise identified, as a member of the Advisory Committee of Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas. The source of this information was said to be the June, 1939 issue of the "Commoner", Commonwealth College publication.

[Redacted]

Arkansas, has in his possession a card index system containing the names and addresses of faculty members, students, maintenance workers, and friends of Commonwealth College, which was seized by Polk County Law Enforcement Officers at the time the college was closed. Examination of these records failed to reveal the name of CHARLES JOHNSON. [Redacted] does not have copies of the Commonwealth College publication known as the "commoner" and he was unable to advise where copies of this publication might be located. He did have copies of the Commonwealth College Fortnightly from February 1, 1926 to March 15, 1938 and examination of the issues of this publication failed to reveal any mention of CHARLES JOHNSON.

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[Redacted] and [Redacted] all Mena, Arkansas, advised they have no record of CHARLES JOHNSON. They were unable to furnish any information concerning possible sources of the Commonwealth College publication known as the "Commoner".

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

- ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE -

Administrative Data

The information attributed to SA [redacted] was previously reported on page 24 of his report dated 8-19-41 at Little Rock, Arkansas, in the case entitled "Commonwealth College, Internal Security - C". The present whereabouts of this report is not known.

WILLIAMS

b6  
b7c

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM : SAC, Memphis (123-356)  
SUBJECT: CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON  
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT  
Public Law 402, 80th Congress  
VOICE OF AMERICA

DATE: 12-29-51

AIR MAIL SPECIAL  
DELIVERYb6  
b7C  
b2  
b7D

R  
Re tel Atlanta to Memphis dated 12-20-51. Rerep SA [redacted] at Memphis dated 2-6-46 entitled "S. C. H. W. - I. S. - C." [redacted]

[redacted] listed therein was [redacted] of Presbyterian Building, Nashville, Tennessee, who made it possible for SA [redacted] to observe certain records maintained by the SCHW. [redacted] knows nothing of the nature of those records and is not being recontacted as he currently can furnish no information.

[redacted] listed in SA [redacted] report was the designation given to [redacted] Southern Bell Telephone Company, and [redacted] Southern Bell Telephone Company, Nashville, Tennessee, who made available to SA [redacted] records of toll charges to the SCHW telephone in Nashville.

Since this information was set out in detail in that report, neither of above individuals is being recontacted. Moreover, all phone company records described have since been destroyed by the company. RUC

3  
CCM:BF

cc Atlanta

EX-28  
RECORDED - 96123-12551-34  
JAN 4 1952  
16

612411 12/19/1952

SAC, Savannah

December 29, 1951

SAC, New York (123-8501)

CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON  
VOA  
Buded 12/19/51.

Rebulet to Washington Field, 12/5/51.

References made to Savannah file, 100-3789 and Savannah letter  
to Bureau 10/12/51 entitled [redacted]

This letter reflects that Dr. CHARLES S. JOHNSON,  
Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, attended the Southern Negro Youth  
Congress held at Columbia, South Carolina, during October, 1946.

The applicant of this case, is the president of Fisk University,  
Nashville, Tennessee, and was born on 7/24/93, at Bristol, Virginia.

Savannah will report pertinent information and document.

AIR MAIL

cc: Bureau (123-12551)

b6  
b7C

JFOC:DAH

123-12551- ✓

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT MIAMI, FLORIDA	DATE WHEN MADE 12-29-51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-18-51	REPORT MADE BY [redacted] bmk/wk
TITLE CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON		b6 b7C b7D	CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY, STATE DEPT. Public Law 402, 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

reference, reported very favorably about the applicant.  
con. 1/28/52, - RUC -

1cc - photo  
REQ. REC'D 7-22-55  
REP'T FORM 7-22-55  
BY [redacted] 7-22-55

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Washington Field, 12-5-51.

DETAILS: AT TAMPA, FLORIDA

REFERENCE

1cc - photo  
REQ. REC'D 5/13/55  
REP'T FORM 5/13/55

[redacted] advised that she has known the applicant for approximately [redacted]. She reported very favorably as to the applicant's character, loyalty, associates, and reputation. She further stated that she would recommend the applicant for a position of trust and confidence with the government.

[redacted] was investigated under the provisions of Executive Order 9835. Reports covering this investigation were transmitted to the Civil Service Commission on 8-9-51. As of 1-15-52 this Bureau had not received the disposition of this case from the Loyalty Review Board.

1cc - photo  
REQ. REC'D 7-22-55  
REP'T FORM 7-22-55  
BY [redacted] 7-22-55

1cc - photo  
REQ. REC'D 7-22-55  
REP'T FORM 7-22-55  
BY [redacted] 7-22-55

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  
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1 - Miami (123-1072)

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123-12551- 35

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MAY 10 1952  
43

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INDEXED - 96

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

FILE NO. *J*

REPORT MADE AT <b>MIAMI, FLORIDA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12-29-51</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12-18-51</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>bmk</b>
TITLE <b>CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPT. Public Law 402, 80th Congress VOICE OF AMERICA</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: **[redacted]** reference, reported very favorably about the applicant.

b6  
b7c

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Washington Field, 12-5-51.

DETAILS: **AT TAMPA, FLORIDA**

REFERENCE **[redacted]**

**[redacted]** advised that she has known the applicant for approximately **[redacted]**. She reported very favorably as to the applicant's character, loyalty, associates, and reputation. She further stated that she would recommend the applicant for a position of trust and confidence with the government.

**[redacted]** was investigated under the procedures of Executive Order 9835. Reports covering this investigation were transmitted to the Civil Service Commissioner on 8/2/51. as of 1/15/52

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN  
This Bureau had no action of the Department of Defense or from the Loyalty Review Board.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *R. W. Wall, Jr.* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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1 - Miami (123-1072)

*[initials]* JAN 2 1952

SIX

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-09-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/11

DEC 29 1951

TELETYPE

12-29-51 4-28 PM CST

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CFR

FBI, LOUISVILLE

DIRECTOR, FBI

....URGENT....

CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON, VOA. RE AT TEL DEC. NINETEEN LAST AND  
LS TEL DEC. TWENTY LAST. REF MADE ALSO TO AT LET DEC. TWENTY. THIS  
OFFICE HOLDING IN ABEYANCE ANY INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL NEWSPAPER PENDING BUREAU APPROVAL. THIS  
ACTION BEING TAKEN IN VIEW OF BUREAU COMMENT IN THE CASE OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SMC, BUFILE [REDACTED]

WHEREIN BUREAU REFUSED PERMISSION TO THIS OFFICE TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED]  
BECAUSE HE WAS EMPLOYED BY RADIO STATION OWNED BY COURIER JOURNAL AND  
[REDACTED] WAS CONSIDERED A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE.

MALONE

END

ACK AND H O L D PLS

5-27 PM OK FBI WA PFE

5-27 PM OK FBI WA PFE

RECORDED - 96

EX-28

At court  
desire of agent

123-12551-36

MAR 10 1952

43

NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
JANUARY 2, 1952

SEATTLE ..... DEFERRED

CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON - VOA. BUDDED DECEMBER NINETEEN, FIFTYONE.  
REBUTILE ONE TWO THREE-ONE TWO FIVE FIVE ONE AND BULET TWO NOVEMBER  
FIVE, FIFTYONE. REFERENCE IS ALSO MADE TO URLT TO THE BUREAU DECEMBER  
SIXTEEN, FIFTY, ENTITLED, "INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC RELATIONS, TA - ESPIONAGE R",  
URLT SIXTYFIVE-THREE ZERO EIGHT FOUR. IN THE COMPILATION OF INFORMATION  
RELATING TO "PERSONS WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN IN SOME MANNER CONNECTED WITH THE  
INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC RELATIONS", [REDACTED] FURNISHED INFORMATION RELATING  
TO THE APPLICANT. [REDACTED] COMPILATION REFLECTS THAT JOHNSON IS  
MENTIONED IN A NINETEEN FORTY BOOKLET OF THE NATIONAL SHARECROPPERS WEEK AS  
WELL AS IN THE NINETEEN FORTY BOOKLETS OF THE SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS' UNION  
AND THE WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE. SEATTLE IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT [REDACTED]  
AND REVIEW THESE BOOKLETS AND HER FILES AND REPORT PERTINENT INFORMATION.

SCHEIDT.

b6  
b7c

cc-Bureau

TM 3-2016A

123-12551- ✓

VERIFIED

JFO/C:KMI  
123-8501

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

1 JAN 3 1952

TELETYPE

FBI, ATLANTA

1-3-52

7-32 PM EST

NAD

DIRECTOR, AND SACS WASHINGTON FIELD, MEMPHIS AND SAVANNAH

DEFERRED

CHARLES SPURGEON *Q* JOHNSON, VOA. BUDED DEC. NINETEEN LAST. BUFILE ONE TWO THREE DASH ONE TWO FIVE FIVE ONE. RETEL BALTIMORE TO DIRECTOR AND SACS WFO, PHILADELPHIA DEC. TWENTYONE LAST. G TWO FILES, HQS. THIRD ARMY, FT. MCPHERSON, GA., REFLECT JOHNSON, PRESIDENT OF FISK UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TENN., HAS NEVER BEEN SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION BY G TWO, THIRD ARMY. HOWEVER, FILES CONTAIN FOLLOWING INFO. CONCERNING APPLICANT. NUMEROUS REFERENCES IN HCUA REPORTS. SUMMARY OF INFO DATED NOV. TWENTYONE, LAST PREPARED BY SAIC, REGION ONE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CIC DETACHMENT, NASHVILLE, TENN. ENTITLED QUOTE COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN TENNESSEE UNQUOTE REFLECTS SENATOR JAMES O. EASTLAND-S SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY OF THE U. S. SENATE, POINTED OUT THAT ACTIVITIES AT FISK UNIVERSITY WERE TO SOME DEGREE COMMUNIST INFILTRATED, BUT THAT APPLICANT STATED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH COMMUNIST AFFILIATIONS. CLIPPING FROM OCT. THIRTY LAST EDITION NEW YORK TIMES LISTS APPLICANT AS ONE OF ENDORSERS OF QUOTE IRON CURTAIN REFUGEE CAMPAIGN UNQUOTE OF INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, SIXTY-TWO W. FORTYFIFTY ST., N. Y. C. INFO. SAVANNAH DIVISION, NOV. TWENTY, FORTYSIX, REFLECTS APPLICANT SPONSOR AND MEMBER ADVISORY BOARD, SNYC, WHICH ORGANIZATION WAS CITED BY THE AG AS SUBVERSIVE. REPORT G TWO, FIFTH ARMY, SEPT. ONE, FORTYNINE, REFLECTED APPLICANT SPEAKER BEFORE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNUAL CONVENTION, DENVER, COLORADO, SEPT. FORTYNINE. FILES OF IDA LIST NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE AS QUOTE SUBVERSIVE

END PAGE ONE

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123-12537-37  
MAR 10 1952

PAGE TWO

ORGANIZATION UNQUOTE. MEMPHIS REQUESTED TO CONTACT THOMAS D. FOX, SAIC, REGION ONE, ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CIC DETACHMENT, NASHVILLE, TENN. AND OBTAIN SOURCE OF INFO. CONTAINED IN HIS SUMMARY OF INFORMATION, DATED NOV. TWENTYONE, LAST. SAVANNAH REQUESTED TO REPORT ALL PERTINENT INFO. RE APPLICANT.

C A S P E R

END AND ACK PLS

WA ACK 7-40 PM OK FBI WA FC

ME ACK OK FBI ME PRM

SV ACK OKFBI SV ELC

TU DISC PLS

C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 3 1952

TELETYPE

~~FBI, ATLANTA~~

1-3-52

7-32 PM EST

NAD

DIRECTOR, AND SACS WASHINGTON FIELD, MEMPHIS AND SAVANNAH

DEFERRED

CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON, VOA. BUBED DEC. NINETEEN LAST. BUFILE ONE  
TWO THREE DASH ONE TWO FIVE FIVE ONE. RETEL BALTIMORE TO DIRECTOR AND  
SACS WFO, PHILADELPHIA DEC. TWENTYONE LAST. G TWO FILES, HQS. THIRD  
ARMY, FT. MCPHERSON, GA., REFLECT JOHNSON, PRESIDENT OF FISK UNIVERSITY,  
NASHVILLE, TENN., HAS NEVER BEEN SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION BY G TWO, THIRD  
ARMY. HOWEVER, FILES CONTAIN FOLLOWING INFO. CONCERNING APPLICANT. NUM-  
EROUS REFERENCES IN HCUA REPORTS. SUMMARY OF INFO DATED NOV. TWENTYONE,  
LAST PREPARED BY SAIC, REGION ONE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CIC DETACHMENT,  
NASHVILLE, TENN. ENTITLED QUOTE COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN TENNESSEE UNQUOTE  
REFLECTS SENATOR JAMES O. EASTLAND-S SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY OF  
THE U. S. SENATE, POINTED OUT THAT ACTIVITIES AT FISK UNIVERSITY WERE TO  
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EDITION NEW YORK TIMES LISTS APPLICANT AS ONE OF ENDORSERS OF QUOTE IRON  
CURTAIN REFUGEE CAMPAIGN UNQUOTE OF INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, SIXTY  
TWO W. FORTYFIFTY ST., N. Y. C. INFO. SAVANNAH DIVISION, NOV. TWENTY,  
FORTYSIX, REFLECTS APPLICANT SPONSOR AND WELFARE ADVISORY BOARD, SNYC,  
WHICH ORGANIZATION WAS CITED BY THE AG AS SEDITIVE. REPORT G TWO,  
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NINE. FILES OF IDA LIST NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE AS QUOTE SEDITIVE  
TWO COPIES WFO

END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO

ORGANIZATION UNQUOTE. MEMPHIS REQUESTED TO CONTACT THOMAS D. FOX, SAIC, REGION ONE, ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CIC DETACHMENT, NASHVILLE, TENN. AND OBTAIN SOURCE OF INFO. CONTAINED IN HIS SUMMARY OF INFORMATION, DATED NOV. TWENTYNONE, LAST. SAVANNAH REQUESTED TO REPORT ALL PERTINENT INFO. RE APPLICANT.

C A S P E R

END AND ACK PLS

WA ACK 7-40 P1 OK FBI WA FC

ME ACK OK FBI ME PRW

SV ACK OKFDI SV ELC

TU DISC PLS

C

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (123-12551)

DATE: January 4, 1952

RBN  
by  
FROM : SAC, WFO (123-11651)SAC, WFO (123-11651)  
CHARLES SPURGEON JOHNSON  
SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT  
Public Law 402, 80th Congress  
VOICE OF AMERICAEnclosed herewith is the report of Special Agent [redacted]  
dated January 4, 1951, at Washington, D.C., in the above-captioned matter.

It is noted that Bureau letter of December 5, 1951 reflects a confidential and reliable source advised that one CHARLES S. JOHNSON of Fisk University was listed as a sponsor and endorser of the Fourth Annual Conference of the American Youth Congress on March 2 and 3, 1940 at Washington, D.C. A check of available field office records fails to reflect any information in this regard. It is noted, however, that on the above dates one CHARLES S. JOHNSON, not otherwise identified, was listed as a sponsor of the Fourth Annual Conference, American Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born, which was held at the Annapolis Hotel, Washington, D.C.

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b7C

In the case entitled National Civil Liberties Clearing House report of [redacted] dated May 2, 1950, Washington, D.C., there is listed a provisional program for the Third Annual Conference of Civil Liberties sponsored by the National Civil Liberties Clearing House. This conference was scheduled to be held on February 23 and 24, 1950 at Washington, D.C., and reflected Dr. CHARLES S. JOHNSON as a member of the Advisory Board.

Inasmuch as the above organization has not been cited by either the Attorney General or the House Committee on Un-American Activities, it was not included in the details of the report.

CQS:EJS  
Enc.

RECORDED - 96

123-12551- 38

MAR 10 1952

43